CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ARGENTINA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA CONCERNING FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and requests it to distribute the following text as an official document on Thursday 14 September.

"In connection with the French Government's detonation of an explosive nuclear device at Mururoa atoll on 5 September, the Argentine Government recalls that, on the occasion of the French Government's announcement of the resumption of its nuclear tests, it communicated through diplomatic channels its concern at a decision which was contrary to the Argentine position of deploring all nuclear tests of whatever origin.

"Given the traditional ties of friendship which link the two countries, the Argentine Government regrets the fact that it was deemed necessary to put this decision into effect, a short time after consensus was reached on the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

"The Argentine Government calls on the French Government to reconsider the implications of its decision. At the same time, it takes due note of the efforts being made within the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency, with French involvement, with a view to the adoption of appropriate steps to take account of the concerns expressed by the international community regarding these tests.

"Lastly, the Argentine Government underlines the importance it attaches to the prompt conclusion of a nuclear-test-ban treaty and to the French Government's decision concerning the signature of such a treaty without reservations, on the occasion of the above-mentioned announcement. Consequently, it takes note once again of that decision, which will allow progress towards consolidation of the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

"Buenos Aires, 6 September 1995."

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